

# We are not keen to produce rubber, says PM

JITRA, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government was not interested in making Malaysia a rubber producing country because of the low price of the commodity.

He said the price of rubber had gone down and Malaysia did not have the force to control it.

"Therefore we are not keen to produce rubber. We hope to relocate the industry to neighbouring countries like Indonesia," he said

when winding up the debate at the Kubang Pasu Umno division's special delegates' meeting at Dewan Jitra here.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was geared towards developing the industrial sector.

"The industrial sector offers more job opportunities than the rubber industry," he said when responding to an question from a delegate on why the price of rubber had gone down.

"An acre of rubber planta-

tion offers job to only one person whereas an acre of industrial land can offer jobs to 100 to 200 people," he said.

Dr Mahathir also spoke on the importance of reviving the family institution.

He voiced his concern about the growing involvement of Malay youths in dadah abuse and loafing culture.

He said 60 per cent of those involved in dadah abuse were Malay youths.

Dr Mahathir said the so-

cial ills could be due to the collapse of the family institution.

He called on Umno members to contribute towards reviving the family institution by creating awareness among parents about their responsibility to their children.

Dr Mahathir reminded Umno members that the party's programmes should not be confined only to political activities but should also cover spiritual development.